

U.S.S.N. 09/548,892

Remarks

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the above-captioned application in light of this amendment, which places the application in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-24, 32, 33, 51 and 52 have been cancelled without prejudice. New claim 53 has been added. New claim 53 is original claim 51 rewritten in independent form. Original claim 51 had been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.


Claims 25-31 and 34-50 stand allowed.

Since all of the claims now pending in the application have been allowed or are now allowable, Applicant respectfully requests that the application be passed to issue.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required and to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 501,171.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 8, 2004


Allison Johnson
Reg. No. 36,173

Allison Johnson, P.A.
6016 Logan Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55419
Telephone (612) 861-8621
Facsimile (612) 861-8628

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-24 (Cancelled).

25.(Previously presented) A method of making an electret, which method comprises:

placing a dielectric article in a liquid of a controlled environment;
condensing vapor from the atmosphere of the controlled environment onto the dielectric article to form a condensate thereon;
decreasing the pressure on the atmosphere of the controlled environment such that at least a portion of the liquid evaporates into the atmosphere; and then drying the article.

26.(Previously presented) A method of making an electret, which method comprises:

condensing vapor from the atmosphere of a controlled environment onto a dielectric article to form a condensate thereon, said condensing comprising increasing the pressure on the atmosphere of the controlled environment such that the vapor condenses on the article; and then drying the article.

27.(Previously presented) A method of making an electret, which method comprises:

condensing vapor from the atmosphere of a controlled environment onto a dielectric article by an adiabatic expansion to form a condensate on the dielectric article; and then drying the article

28. (Previously presented) A method of making an electret, which method comprises:

U.S.S.N. 09/548,892

altering a first property of a controlled environment comprising atmosphere and liquid such that at least a portion of the liquid evaporates into the atmosphere to form vapor;

altering a second property of the environment such that the vapor condenses on the surface of a dielectric article; and then drying the article.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the first property is selected from the group consisting of pressure, volume or temperature, or a combination thereof, and wherein the second property is selected from the group consisting of pressure, volume or temperature, or a combination thereof.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the first property comprises pressure and the second property comprises pressure.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the first property comprises volume and the second property comprises volume.

Claims 32-33 (Cancelled).

34. (Previously presented) A method of making an electret, which method comprises:

altering the volume of a controlled environment that comprises atmosphere and liquid such that at least a portion of the liquid evaporates into the atmosphere to form vapor;

altering the volume of the environment such that the vapor condenses on the surface of a dielectric article; and then drying the article.

35. (Previously presented) A method of making an electret comprising:
altering at least one property of a controlled environment so as to cause the vapor of the atmosphere of the controlled environment to condense on a

U.S.S.N. 09/548,892

dielectric article having a resistivity of greater than 10^{14} ohms-cm, said property being selected from the group consisting of volume, pressure or temperature of the controlled environment; and
drying the article.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the electret exhibits a persistent electric charge.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the dielectric article comprises a nonconductive polymeric material.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the condensate that forms when the vapor condenses on the dielectric article includes a polar liquid.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the controlled environment further comprises a liquid, and the method further comprises:
placing the article in the liquid; and
decreasing the pressure on the atmosphere such that at least a portion of the liquid evaporates into the atmosphere.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein altering the property comprises increasing the pressure on the atmosphere such that the vapor condenses on the article.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein said altering comprises an adiabatic expansion.

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the controlled environment comprises a vacuum chamber.

U.S.S.N. 09/548,892

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the polar liquid is an aqueous liquid.

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the condensate consists essentially of water.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the condensate is selected from the group consisting of acetone, methanol, ethanol, liquid carbon dioxide, butanol, or a combination thereof.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the condensate comprises a fluorocarbon.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the article is nonwoven fibrous web.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the nonwoven fibrous web comprises microfibers.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the microfibers are melt blown.

50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the melt blown microfibers comprise polypropylene, poly-(4-methyl-1-pentene), or a combination thereof.

Claims 51 and 52 (Cancelled)

53.(New) A method of making an electret comprising:

altering a first property of a controlled environment of a chamber such that at least a portion of a liquid in the controlled environment evaporates into the atmosphere;

U.S.S.N. 09/548,892

altering at least one second property of the controlled environment so as to cause vapor of the atmosphere of the controlled environment to condense on a dielectric article having a resistivity of greater than 10^{14} ohms-cm, said dielectric article being disposed in said controlled environment; and

drying the article to remove the condensate,
wherein the electret exhibits a persistent electric charge.